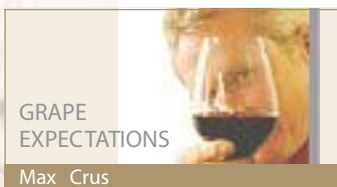


Consume life.

wine.

Facing up to facts and friends



GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

Max Crus

I joined Facebook or Twitter or something, ages ago. Actually I signed up Gruntle the Wander Dog (yes Wander Dog), thinking, as he did, that he needed to get out more. However unlike him, I reasoned roaming the streets was not the best option, despite his unending desire for same, and that as soon as he learned some keyboard skills he'd be right.

Typically, after lying idle and flat on my Facebook all this time, and just when I thought it might be fun to finally engage in such twit-twaddle, along comes a new must-be-on networking thingy called FourSkin or FourSquare or something.

Apparently FourSquare enables you to track where your friends are, while they do likewise, culminating in a fantastic new concept for cyber-kiddies, actually meeting those friends face-to-face.

It's called 'social' innovation. (What might George Orwell have called it?) Anyway, now people can meet their million friends face-to-face, although finding a suitable venue might be tricky.

Okay, admittedly, I am like other parents, merely living an exotic life with those million friends vicariously through my dog, so I signed up Gruntle on FourPaws hoping at least I would know where he goes walkabout.

My folly was immediately apparent. Political parties, always at the Blogface of net-tech, cottoned on to MyFace pretty smartly and suddenly not only have I befriended half the National Party – thus rendering me socially unacceptable to everyone else – they know where I am.

Furthermore, with FourFace I will have to meet them too. OMG.

Apparently, mercifully, you can de-friend.

Still, this segues nicely to the prolific proliferation of wineries on TwitBlog which, paradoxically, is one of the few useful adaptations of the technology.

For instance I bumped into a friend recently who was concerned he couldn't find some wines I'd reviewed. Now he can not only Google such things, he can communicate with the winemakers, at the same time telling all his friends about it and thanks to FourTwit, actually meet them.

The wonders of technology. Google these:



Arrowfield Estate Show Reserve Hunter Valley Shiraz, 2006, \$30. Sunday nights are quiet time at maison de Crus, so a quiet drink beckoned. This was much quieter than its 14.5 percent suggested, indeed a beautifully calm wine ideally suited to the occasion. 8.9/10.



Zilzie Bulloak Sauvignon Blanc 2009, \$9. "Well I've ripped and dug out burrows on a sandy bulloak hill", and that's this thy work. Amazing value. 8.1/10.



Balnaves of Coonawarra 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, \$35. It's frustrating when you say "just one glass", and then open something like this. Cruel is another word. Then weak willed. Very cab sav. 8.9/10.



Pipers Brook Riesling 2009, \$23. You know when you get sick of sav blanc and other fruity whites. No? Me neither, but get this if you do. 8.8/10.



Syn Rouge, \$17.50. An incredible number of the bubbles didn't fit into the fancy cooler. It wasn't the cooler's fault either, rather the passion for pop in fat bottles. 8.1/10.



Heggies (Eden Valley) Merlot 2007, \$29. Snigger you Sideways lovers, we'll just look at you sideways and have another glass. Fine wine in a fat package, like some people I know. 8.6/10.

For more Max visit www.maxcrus.com.au